

To: President, Provost, Vice Presidents, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Administrative Departments, Chairmen of Academic Departments, Heads of Medical Divisions and Hospital Department Heads

From: Nadim Cortas, M.D., Vice President for Medical Affairs & The Raja N. Khuri Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Medical Center

Ref: NC/nt

Date: September 30, 2005

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr. Ghassan Hamadeh has been appointed as Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine effective October 1, 2005.

After graduating from AUB in 1984, Dr. Hamadeh completed Family Medicine training at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). In his personal statement for residency training, he expressed his career goal as an agent of change of general practice in Lebanon. To fulfill that goal, he chose academic medicine and completed a faculty development fellowship at the University of North Carolina and served as faculty and as Assistant Residency Program Director at MUSC for 2 years. After returning to Lebanon, he took on a variety of responsibilities within and outside the Faculty of Medicine, including: Department Acting Chair for 2 years, Assistant Dean for one year, University Health Services Director for the last 10 years, President of Lebanese Society of Family Medicine for 3 years, Consultant to WHO, private health insurance industry, and the Ministry of Public Health. He has developed advanced skills in Practice Management and Medical Informatics and has received research grants for and implemented numerous informatics & quality improvement projects at AUB and the Ministry of Public Health. His most recent project was the implementation of Pay for Performance and group practice program for Family Medicine providers. Aside from practice management interests, Dr. Hamadeh has coordinated the Problem Based Learning medicine one course at AUB side by side with chairing and co-chairing the last 6 Middle East Medical Assembly programs. He has published in the areas of community oriented primary care, medical education, medical ethics, management and health informatics and health promotion and disease prevention. His dearest theme remains the training of residents and general practitioners at better understanding the doctor patient relationship using Balint methodology.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mustafa Khogali, who came to us from a very senior position in Sudan, for a job well done as Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine during the period from July 1, 1991 to September 30, 2005. Over the past 14 years the department of Family Medicine, that had only one full time and two part members when he joined it, now has 22 faculty members. As of 1993, Dr. Khogali moved the University Health Services under the umbrella of Family Medicine. Soon later, his team became responsible for seeing patients in the emergency room. Fifty six residents graduated during his chairmanship. He extended the department into the community and introduced family medicine care to the army. Although Dr. Khogali is leaving us, his valuable contributions to our Faculty and Medical Center will endure for a very long time. Dr. Khogali supported me over the last two years in coordinating the Faculty of Medicine's External Programs as well as the residency programs. I will strongly miss all his support.

Dr. Khogali and the DFM are founders of the Arab Board in Family and Community Medicine. The DFM over the last decade was a center to upgrade the skills and knowledge of several institutions (Ministries of Health of Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon; Harriri and Ghassan Kanafani Foundations, etc.) In June 2005 The President of Lebanon awarded Dr. Mustafa Khogali the Order of Cedar, knights Rank for promoting primary care in Lebanon and the region.

On my behalf and behalf of all of AUBMC staff I would like to extend to Dr. Khogali our gratitude and sincere thanks and appreciation for doing an excellent job. Mustafa, thank you for all you did for this institution and we wish you and your family a wonderful future in Sudan. Knowing you, this is not the end to a career but the beginning of some brand-new one.

I am confident that you will join me in giving our support to Dr. Hamadeh as Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and in expressing our gratitude to Dr. Khogali.